

THE COMET.

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ROBT. L. TAYLOR,
ROBT. BURROW, Editors.

Johnson City, Tenn., June 14, 1884.

TILDEN DECLINES.

The refusal of Mr. Tilden to be re-nominated and re-elected President of the United States will be deeply regretted by a great majority of the Democratic party. Mr. Tilden declares that his advancing years and declining strength will not allow him to again enter politics. The few years that may remain to this grand old man will be made happy by the assurances that he carries with him in his retirement from public view, the veneration and gratitude of the Nation.

The ex-Democratic Bristol *News* has hoisted the names of Blaine and Logan at its mast head, and proclaims it the invincible ticket. The *News* notifies Blaine that the *News* will support him "with all the earnestness and devotion which should satisfy his earliest and most ardent friends." That settles it. Where is the praise of Arthur which so recently fell like music from the burning lips of Virginia's white washed Statesmen? Why now, so soon on bended knee swear eternal devotion to the plumed knight, even before the impassioned shouts for Arthur have yet cooled upon thy lips? Well perhaps 'tis best. Arthur was, but is not. Blaine was not, but is. "The King is dead, long live the King!" In the language of the inimitable McElreth, "Hash!"

THE TICKET.

Uneasy lies the head of Blaine. It is easier to win the title of "Plumed Knight" than to be elected President. It is by far less trouble to carry conventions by storm than it is to carry the country. The dashing, brilliant Blaine seconded by the brilliant dashing Logan with all their audacity and flourish, will find that dash will not win in a combat like this, where the happiness and prosperity of a nation depend largely upon the good judgment and prudence of its rulers. The New York *Sun* thus comments:

There are many Republicans who see in the present candidate of their party none of the solid qualities of judgment and prudence which should be possessed by a possible ruler of a nation, and none of that scrupulous honor or which ought to be expected in a public man. These Republicans are deeply disgusted with the result of the Chicago Convention, and some of them have already declared their resolution of opposing a restless adventurer whose administration, if, to the misfortune of the country, he should be elected President, would mean corruption at home and reckless entanglement abroad. In Massachusetts an active protest against him is already made, and in New York, where the Republicans need every vote they can get, a decided disaffection exists.

These mutterings of discontent may die away before the election day, or they may be the precursors of a storm which will overwhelm the party. But whether the revolt be great or small, it is hard to see how Mr. BLAINE's followers can be unprepared for it. In 1881 their favorite did all he could to divide the party. For the sake of gratifying a personal grudge, he induced GARFIELD to declare war against CONKLING. The party, while it was yet in the flush of recent victory, was disorganized and split into bitterly opposed factions. Then came GARFIELD's assassination, and the men who had made him a tool and his short administration a failure, had nothing but abuse or distrust for his successor.

Mr. ARTHUR found his party in the wretched plight to which Mr. BLAINE's leadership had brought it. By moderation and conservatism and prudence, the President has made the party stronger and more united than could have been expected. The nomination of Mr. BLAINE again threatens to produce dangerous, perhaps fatal, divisions.

Mr. BLAINE, who was the voluntary cause of the divisions in his party in 1881, is now the involuntary cause of divisions in it in 1884. He can have no reason to complain if there are Republicans who will gratify their suspicion or their hatred of him to the loss of the party, as he gratified his private hatred to the loss of the party in 1881. But there is this difference. He injured his party merely to satisfy private malice. The men who will oppose him this fall, even if the defeat or ruin of Republicanism should be the result, are acting for the most part from patriotic motives, because they believe that he is a dangerous and unprincipled politician, unfit and unworthy to be entrusted with the national Government. They may smother the Republican party, but Mr. BLAINE can't complain; he tried to smother it himself.

The Tennessee State Democratic Convention will meet in the Hall of Representatives at Nashville, at high twelve next Wednesday.

Isaham G. Harris, will be the Chairman of the Tennessee delegation at the Chicago Convention.

Will it be Cleveland and Carlisle, or Bayard and McDonald?

We are not done with the Bristol *News* yet. We want that paper to understand that there is no rest for the wicked. When a man deserts his party, renounces his life long principles and rushes headlong into the ranks of the enemy, it is and ought to be understood that he rests under the gravest suspicion of an unholy purpose, and that if he would justify his conduct he must do so by the clearest and most satisfactory reasons. In joining the Republicans the editor of the *News* has inferentially declared that his political life has been a failure; that his advocacy of Democratic principles for thirty years was wrong; that for fifteen years, as the editor of a Democratic journal, he mislead his friends and neighbors and supporters; that his course through all these years was directly in conflict with the best interests of Virginia and the people who had honored him with office. The *News* thinks we are hard to satisfy. Not at all. If he would give us one single good reason, one solitary fact that would justify his "reversing the machine," we would be satisfied. Something better than a newly discovered opposition to "a tariff for revenue only," which he had previously supported for twenty years, must be given.

The *News* says he has told us there is no national, unified Democratic party for it to remain in. That sounds to us like a keynote. It is very much like the confession of the deserter who leaves his comrades routed and divided and joins the solid columns of the enemy in order to be on the "winning side." The *News* has made the wonderful discovery that the Democratic party divided on slavery and secession. Its editor remained in that party twenty years after these were dead issues, and yet at this late day he offers them as reasons for joining the Republicans. When such flimsy pretenses as these are offered, will the *News* be surprised if its motives and sincerity should be questioned?

If the *News* left the Democratic party because it was not a united party, is it not now about ready to desert the Republicans? Which branch of the Republican party will it adhere to? The *News* published Henry Ward Beecher's speech on Arthur a few weeks ago, will it continue to follow Beecher's advice and bolt, or will it stultify itself by supporting Blaine, who always had a supreme contempt for the Mahonites in Virginia. Will the *News* go with the great Republican Carl Schurz, or will it chime in with Wm. C. Wickam? Will it follow the lead of Geo. Wm. Curtis and Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby, and the N. Y. *Times*, N. Y. *Herald*, N. Y. *Evening Post*, N. Y. *Commercial Advertiser*, N. Y. *Independent*, *Harpers Weekly*, *Buffalo Commercial Albany Press*, *Chicago News*, *Buffalo Express*, *Springfield Republican*, *New Haven News*, *Rochester Post Express*, *Boston Advertiser*, *Boston Herald*, *Chicago Times*, *Boston Transcript*, *Brooklyn Union*, *Worcester Spy*, N. Y. *Staats Zeitung*, and other leading Republican papers which revolt against the nomination of Blaine and refuse to support him, or will it fall into ranks of the Blaine army, led by John R. Lynch, the colored statesman of Mississippi, and Powell Clayton the "one armed gambler" from Arkansas.

The *News* seems to be troubled about uncle Sam Tilden. But it need have no fears but that, if elected he will "turn the rascals out." The editor of the *News* was overruled with enthusiasm at Tilden's election in 1876 and was in favor of the "old ticket" for 1880, and he ought by this time to understand the position of the Sage of Graystone on the tariff question. By examining the Democratic platform of 1876 he will find that Tilden is a Democrat and supports the time honored doctrine of Democracy, "a tariff for revenue only."

The *News* says the Democratic party honors Jubal Early and is therefore responsible for what he says. How has he been honored? The Republican party of New York invited Beecher to address a great business meeting of Republicans. He did so and his speech was published in the *News*. Beecher was thus honored by the Republicans and by the *News*. Now Beecher says: "Don't vote for Blaine." What is the *News* going to do about it? Is it not responsible?

The *News* is correct when it says the tariff is warming up Virginia and Tennessee. The oppressive collar of war taxes and war tariffs has galled and fretted the people of those states until they are getting warm. They are now ready to demand that the necessities of life shall not be made to pay tribute while luxuries are put practically upon the free list. They want no more discriminations, no more government aid to foster monopolies at the expense of the people. They demand that the engine be reversed and the brakes be applied, and that we take a fresh start in the direction of cheap clothing, cheap machinery, cheap bread, cheap meat, cheap medicine, and high labor, bigger wages and better times.

Question: What is the difference between the Republican party and a drunkard?

Answer: One has the "Jim Blaines" and the other the "Jim James."

Gov. Wm. B. Bate will be nominated on the first ballot.

The nomination of James G. Blaine and John A. Logan for the two chief offices of the Republic, did not bring terror and consternation to the Democracy. On the contrary, there is a feeling of confidence in the ranks of the grand old party never before heard of so early in the campaign. The country has not gone wild over the results of the June convention. Leading Republican papers have condemned the nominations. The Springfield *Republican* says:

The Republican party, dazzled with the qualities which please the mob, have placed this man in nomination, thereby giving to the Democratic party the greatest opportunity it ever had to recover power by nominating some clean, able, safe and progressive statesman, like Gov. Cleveland or Thomas F. Bayard. New York is the vital State, and the nomination of Cleveland, with his views in favor of revenue reform and civil service reform, his conservative regard for moneyed interests, and his efficient administration, would undoubtedly win the support of the independent vote.

The New York *Times* one of the leading Republican papers of the United States thus sadly moans:

One word as to the position of the *Times*. It will not support Mr. Blaine for the Presidency. It will advise no man to vote for him, and its reasons for this course are perfectly well understood by everybody that has ever read it. The interest the *Times* will take in this canvass is that of a friend and physician. It is not with cynical indifference, but with unspeakable sadness, that it sees the Republican party perverting its face toward error and its feet in vicious paths, for it has done some service to the party. But with patience and with unflinching hope the *Times* will cheerfully and with sincerity labor to set the party right again, and when it shall have had its new birth, to draw to it all that is soundest, best and worthiest in the manhood of this Republic.

Listen to the voice of the New York *Herald*:

Finally the great agony is over and Mr. Blaine is the candidate of the Republican party for the office of President of the United States. We are sorry for it and we believe the Republicans will all be sorry for it next November. As it is reported, and is well nigh certain, that Mr. Tilden's active refusal to be a candidate is positively written, it will, perhaps, take a few days to make it clear, whether the fearful blunder of the Republicans may not change that purpose. If it does not, the Democracy has still many names with which they can beat Blaine. Cleveland is one of them. Indeed, the similarity of the situation that would be presented in this canvass to the canvass in which Cleveland carried this State by an overwhelming majority will escape no one. Against a candidate who has been forced upon an unwilling party by the clamorous and the maneuvers of a horde of unscrupulous bosses, the name of Cleveland is one to conjure with.

The Buffalo, N. Y. *Express*, (Rep.) handles this talk:

If this election can be carried by dash and enthusiasm and splendid leadership the event may possibly justify the audacity of Mr. Blaine's friends at Chicago. But the chances are fearfully against him. His character has been so maliciously blackened and distorted by the newspaper organs of the present administration during the strife for the nomination, and it is apparently impossible for the indignant and unscrupulous friends of Mr. Arthur to support him, that the fight for Mr. Blaine must be a sort of forlorn hope at the best—a fight only to be won by sheer desperation aided by wonderful luck.

These are only a few of the many. The Democratic party can win in 1884. The country looks to Tilden, but there are others who can vanquish the Plumed Knight, if Tilden declines. McDonald can carry the day, so can Cleveland. Give us a solid party; give us a New York man and an Indiana man or an Indiana man and a New York man; let the young men of the Nation seize the banner and rush to the front; now is the time to rescue the country from rotten Radical rule. Sound the bugle.

The Republican Candidate.

It is best, after all, that James G. Blaine should be the candidate of the Republican party. His nomination has been urged with earnestness and sincerity by a majority of that party, and the majority must rule in this country, even when it is in the wrong. The party now appeals to the country with a candidate who stands for something. He represents the average of Republican principles and purposes, of Republican honor and conscience, as they now are.

If he does not, then the Republicans of Maine, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Kansas were willfully betrayed in their primaries, in their district and State conventions, and at Chicago; and we have no where read or heard that Republican sentiment in these States, or in any State, was stifled or perverted in order to secure Blaine delegates. Nor was Mr. Blaine nominated in ignorance of who and what he was. The party had its eyes open. It has taken this step not in the dark, but in broad daylight.

It is much better, therefore, that Mr. Blaine should be the candidate than that Mr. Arthur's friends should have been successful in their purpose to have thrust him on the party against its will. We have clearly seen and plainly said that the great majority of Republicans did not want Mr. Arthur for their candidate. Had he been nominated, his defeat would have signified nothing as regards the heart and virtue of the party, nothing as to the favor its principles and present practices find in the eyes of the Amer-

ican people. There will be nothing ambiguous about the defeat of Mr. Blaine. He who runs may clearly read the verdict in advance: "A candidate unworthy of confidence and a party too careless of its own honor to be longer trusted with the nation's." That defeat will be the salvation of the Republican party. It will arouse its torpid conscience, it will stir it to self-purification, it will depose the false leaders who have fastened themselves upon it, it will send the rogues to the back-ground, and will make the party once more worthy of honor and power in the Republic it has so nobly served.—New York *Times*.

Hamblen County Democratic Convention.

The Democrats of Hamblen county, Tenn., met June 9th, 1884, in pursuance to call of the Chairman, S. W. Shields. On motion, Hon. Wm. McFarland was elected permanent Chairman, and Dr. R. B. Owens Secretary.

On motion, a Committee of eight were appointed to nominate delegates to the State Convention, which is to be held in Nashville, Tenn., on the 18th day of June, 1884, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Governor, and such other business as may come before said convention.

The following delegates were appointed:

1st District—H. Loop, Dr. D. A. Neilson, and W. C. Durham.
2nd District—W. A. Howell, L. C. Ivey.
3rd District—Jno. Lawrence, C. Milligan.
4th District—J. F. Noe, Jno. Ivey.
5th District—C. J. Burnett, S. W. Shields.
6th District—G. W. Folsom, O. C. King.

7th District—Robt. Harle, L. F. Leeper, C. Witt.

8th District—Henry McClister, W. A. McCorkle.

9th District—Dr. C. E. Fuller, James Knight.

10th District—Will Neil, Chas. V. Taylor.

11th District—Samuel W. Jack, Newton Lane, J. L. Quillen.

12th District—Allen Howery, Frank Farmer.

County at Large—T. C. Cain, W. S. Dickson, J. F. Phelps, Sr., Jno. M. Fleming, W. C. Kyle, J. C. Hodges, Hon. Wm. McFarland, Chairman, and Dr. R. B. Owens, Secretary, were added to the delegates.

On motion, the Chairman appointed the following committee on resolutions, viz: O. C. King, Dr. McFerrin, Dr. D. A. Neilson, who reported the following resolutions which were adopted, viz:

1st. RESOLVED, Whereas, the National Democratic party—the outspoken foe of centralization, fraud, high tariff, high taxes and protective monopolies—upon the success of whose principles in our opinion the prosperity and perpetuity of free government guarantee equal justice to all alike depends—

is again about to be confronted by its old enemy, arrogant with repeated success and long use of power which has set at defiance over ridden, proscribed and disgraced the Constitution and every department of the Government, corrupting the laws to their very ends that made them—the high Court that constrains them—and the dignified office of the exalted functionary that executes them.

2nd. THEREFORE RESOLVED, That we favor the nomination by acclamation of the old ticket—Samuel J. Tilden and Thos. A. Hendricks for President and Vice President respectively, and hereby instruct our delegates to the State Convention to use their influence in having Tennessee's delegates instructed to this effect.

3rd. RESOLVED, That in the November contest, both State and National, the party calls upon and expects every man to do his duty, and to this end we pledge our best efforts.

4th. RESOLVED, That these resolutions and the proceedings of this meeting be sent to THE MORRISTOWN GAZETTE, the Johnson City Comet, and the Knoxville Tribune, with the request to publish the same.

Wm. McFarland, Chm'n.
R. B. OWENS, Sec'y.

TILDEN DECLINES.

NEW YORK, June 11.—The following paper from Samuel J. Tilden has been given the Associated Press:

New York, June 10, 1884.

To Daniel Manning, Chairman Democratic State Committee of New York.

In my letter of June 18th, 1880, addressed to delegates from the State of New York to the Democratic National Convention, I said: "Having now borne faithfully my full share of labor and care in public service, and wearing marks of its burdens, I desire nothing so much as an honorable discharge. I wish to lay down the honors and toils of even a quasi party leadership, and to seek repose of private life. In any State, was stifled or perverted in order to secure Blaine delegates. Nor was Mr. Blaine nominated in ignorance of who and what he was. The party had its eyes open. It has taken this step not in the dark, but in broad daylight."

It is much better, therefore, that Mr. Blaine should be the candidate than that Mr. Arthur's friends should have been successful in their purpose to have thrust him on the party against its will. We have clearly seen and plainly said that the great majority of Republicans did not want Mr. Arthur for their candidate. Had he been nominated, his defeat would have signified nothing as regards the heart and virtue of the party, nothing as to the favor its principles and present practices find in the eyes of the Amer-

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Such work of renovation, after many years of misrule, such reform of systems and politics, to which I would cheerfully have sacrificed all that remained to me of health and life, is now I fear beyond my strength. My purpose to withdraw from further public service and the grounds of it were at that time well known to you and to others, and when at Cincinnati, though respecting my wishes yourself, you communicated to me an appeal from many valued friends to relinquish that purpose. I reiterated my determination, however, annually. In the four years which have since elapsed nothing has occurred to weaken, but everything to strengthen the consideration which induced my withdrawal from public life, and to all who have addressed me on the subject, my intention has been frankly communicated. Several of my most confidential friends under the action of their own names have publicly stated my determination to be irrevocable; that I have occasion now to consider the question is an event for which I have no responsibility. The appeal made to me by the democratic masses, with apparent unanimity to serve them once more, is entitled to the most deferential consideration and would inspire a disposition to do anything desired of me if it were consistent with my judgment of duty. I believe that there is no instrumentality in human society so potential in its influence upon mankind for good or evil as the governmental machinery for administering justice and for making and executing the laws. Not all elementary institutions or private benevolence to which philanthropists may devote their lives are so fruitful in benefits as the rescue and preservation of this machinery from the perversions that make it the instrument of conspiracy, fraud and crime against the most sacred rights and interests of the people.

For fifty years, as a private citizen, never contemplating an official career, I have devoted at least as much thought and effort to the duty of influencing aright the action of governmental institutions of my country as to all other objects. I have never accepted official service except for a brief period and for special purposes, and only when occasion seemed to require from me that sacrifice of private preferences to the public welfare. I understood the State administration of New York because it was supposed that in that way only could the Executive power be arrayed on the side of reform to which, as a private citizen, I had given three years of my life. I accepted the nomination for the Presidency in 1876, because of the general conviction that my candidacy would best present the issue of reform which the Democratic majority of the people desired to have worked out by the Federal Government, as it had been in that of the State of New York. I believed that I had strength enough then to renovate the administration of the United States, and at the close of my time to hand over the great trust to my successor—faithful to the same policy, though anxious to seek repose of private life.

I nevertheless acted upon the idea that every power is in trust and involves duty. In reply to the addresses of the committee communicating my nomination, I depicted the difficulties of the undertaking and likened my feelings in engaging in it to those of a soldier entering a battle, but I did not withhold the entire consecration of my powers to the public service. Twenty years of a continuous maintained administration under the demoralizing influence of an intestine war and of bad finance have infected the whole government system of the United States, with cancerous growths of false constructions and corrupt practices. Powerful classes have acquired a pecuniary interest in official abuses and the moral standard of people have been impaired.

To redress these evils is the work of great difficulty and labor, and cannot be accomplished without the most energetic and efficient and personal action on the part of the chief executive of the Republic. The canvass and administration which it is desired that I should undertake would embrace a period of nearly five years, and even I admit an illusion as to their burdens.

Three years of experience in endeavor to reform the municipal government of the city of New York and two years of experience in renovating the administration of the State of New York, have made me familiar with the requirements of such a work at the present time. The considerations which induced my action in 1880 have become imperative. I ought not to assume a task which I have not the physical strength to carry through. To reform the administration of the Federal Government, to realize my own ideal and to fulfill the just expectations of the people, would indeed warrant, as the cost at once compensates the sacrifices which the undertaking would involve, but in my condition of advancing years and declining strength I feel no assurance of my ability to accomplish these objects. I am, therefore, constrained to say definitively that I cannot now assume the labors of an administration or of a canvass, undervaluing in no wise that best gift of heaven, the occasion and power sometimes bestowed upon a more individual to communicate an impulse for good. Grateful beyond all words to my fellow countrymen, who would assign such a beneficent function to me, I am consoled by the reflection that neither the Democratic party nor the Republic, for whose future that party is the best guarantee, is now, or ever can be, dependent upon any one man for their successful progress in the path of a noble destiny. Having given to their welfare whatever of health and strength I possessed, and could borrow from the future, and having reached the term of my capacity for such labors as their welfare now demands, I submit to the will of God, in deeming my political career forever closed.

SAMUEL J. TILDEN.

Now old High Tariff had an old gray hair.

And this old hair was blind;

Jim Blaine onto the saddle sat,

John Logan rid behind.

Will some brother set and carry the chum.

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